

REMARKS**Reconsideration And Allowance
Are Respectfully Requested.**

Claims 1-3, 5, 14, 15 and 17-25 are currently pending. Claims 4, 6-13 and 16 have been canceled. Claims 6-13 have been canceled based upon the prior Restriction Requirement. Claims 1 and 14 have been amended. New claims 18-25 have been added. No new matter has been added. No new claims have been added. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicant would first like to thank Primary Examiner Stephen Blau for the courtesies extended during the interview conducted on March 15, 2005. During the course of this interview, the prior art of record was discussed as it relates to the pending claims. After discussing the pending claims and the prior art in substantial detail, Applicant agreed to add limitations regarding a grip body being cylindrical with a material having a changed composition for the creation of a design pattern. In addition, Applicant agreed to submit new claims describing the addition of LEDs to the grip for enhancing the viewing of the underlying design.

With regard to the outstanding rejections, claims 1-5 and 14-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0211900 to Novak et al. (Novak) in view of Japanese Patent No. 2002-52480 ('480 patent) and U.S. Patent No. 5,637,244 to Erokhin (Erokhin). This rejection is respectfully traversed in view of the preceding amendments and the remarks which follow.

In particular, claims 1 and 14 have both been amended so as to define a grip having a transparent polymetric cylindrical body with an inner surface and an outer surface. The inner surface

defines a cavity shaped and dimensioned for receiving an article. A design is formed within the body and between the inner surface and the outer surface of the body. The design is a result of altering the appearance and material characteristics of the cylindrical body between the inner surface and the outer surface.

In contrast, the prior art fails to disclose a grip having a design located between the inner and outer surfaces as claimed in amended claims 1 and 14. For example, Novak discloses a golf club grip including an internally mounted insert for viewing from the external surface thereof. However, the insert is located within the central portion of the grip and is not located between the inner and outer surfaces thereof.

Similarly, the '480 patent discloses a hand tool grip formed by double extruding a mold such that a colored resin is positioned within the center of the grip. However, the colored resin is not positioned between inner and outer surfaces of the grip, but is rather positioned along the central cavity thereof. This is a result of the fact that the double extrusion molding disclosed in the '480 patent would not permit the formation of a grip having a design formed between the inner and outer surfaces of the grip, but only allows for the formation of a central stripe-shaped pattern formed within the transparent outer surface of the grip.

As to Erokhin, it merely discloses a method and apparatus for creating an image by a pulsed laser beam inside a transparent material and offers no suggestion for applying such technology to the creation of a grip as disclosed by Novak or the '480 patent.

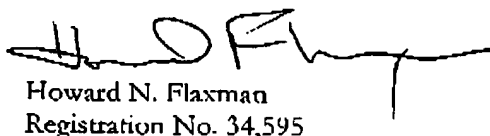
With the foregoing in mind, it is Applicant's opinion that nothing in the prior art either discloses or suggests the claimed invention and that amended claims 1 and 14 overcome the prior art of record. As such, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection relating thereto be withdrawn.

As to claims dependent upon independent claims 1 and 14, they are believed to overcome the prior art of record for the reasons presented above.

New claims 18-25 have been added to the present application. Independent claim 18 defines a grip having a transparent polymeric body with an inner surface and an outer surface. The inner surface defines a cavity shaped and dimensioned for receiving an article. The grip further includes a design formed within the body between the inner surface and the outer surface of the body. The grip also includes a light source coupled to the grip for directing light onto the design. Nothing in the prior art discloses or suggests such a design and it is Applicant's opinion that new claims 18-25 are, therefore, allowable over the prior art of record.

It is believed that this case is in condition for allowance and reconsideration thereof and early issuance is respectfully requested. If it is felt that an interview would expedite prosecution of this application, please do not hesitate to contact Applicant's representative at the below number.

Respectfully submitted,



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